NARRATIVE

OF THE

CONSECRATION

OF THE

REV. HENRY U. ONDERDONK, D. D.

WITH THE

ADDRESS

OF THE

PRESIDING BISHOP.

PUBLISHED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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1827

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REV. HENRY U. ONDERDONK, D. D.

THURSDAY, the 25th of October, 1827, having been previously appointed for the consecration of the Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk, D. D. there were assembled in Philadelphia for that occasion, the following Bishops—the Right Rev. Bishop White, of Pennsylvania, being the presiding Bishop; the Right Rev. John Henry Hobart, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church in the state of New York; the Right Rev. Bishop Kemp, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church in the state of Maryland; the Right Rev. John Croes, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church in the state of New Jersey; the Right Rev. Nathaniel Bowen, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church in the state of South Carolina—who united in the said consecration, in Christ Church, on the appointed day, in the presence of at least fifty clergymen, of this and other dioceses, and an immense congregation, who, throughout the imposing solemnities of the day, exhibited a decorum and an

attention, which, while it reflects credit upon the well established character of our community for order, evinced a deep impression and interest in the object of their assembling.

At half past ten o'clock, the morning prayer was begun by the Rev. James Abercrombie, D. D., of Philadelphia, and conducted by him to the end of the second lesson, and thence to the end, by the Rev. Benjamin T. Onderdonk, D. D., of New York.

The lessons which were selected as appropriate to the occasion, were Isaiah lxi. and St. John x. 1st to 18th verses.

After singing the 100th psalm, the presiding Bishop began the communion service, the epistle being read by the Right Rev. Bishop Kemp, and the gospel, by the Right Rev. Bishop Hobart.

The gospel being ended, there was sung the 26th hymn, being the 97th of the book of hymns recently set forth and allowed by the General Convention.

Then followed an appropriate, impressive, and eloquent sermon by the Right Rev. Bishop Hobart; after which was sung three verses of the 132nd psalm, beginning at the 7th verse.

The sermon being ended, the elected Bishop, vested with his Rochet, was presented by the Right Rev. Bishops Croes and Bowen, unto the presiding Bishop, sitting in his chair near the Holy Table, the words of presentation being pronounced by the former Bishop.

Then the presiding Bishop demanded testimonials of the person presented for consecration, and caused the same to be read by the Rev. Jackson Kemper, and the Rev. William H.

De Lancey, the latter of whom, as Secretary of the Convention of the diocese of Pennsylvania, read the Testimonial, "required by the third Canon, which was signed by a majority of the clergy and laity, who composed the convention of the Protestant Episcopal church in the diocese of Pennsylvania, which elected the Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk, of Brooklyn, New York, to be the Assistant Bishop of the diocese during the life of the present Bishop, and to be the Bishop of the diocese after his demise." The testimonial is as follows:—

"*Harrisburg, May* 10, 1827.

"We, whose names are underwritten, fully sensible how important it is that the sacred office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion, without partiality or affection, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that the Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk is not, so far as we are informed, justly liable to evil report, either for error in religion, or for viciousness in life; and that we do not know or believe that there is any impediment on account of which he ought not to be consecrated to that holy office. We do moreover jointly and severally declare, that we do in our consciences, believe him to be of such sufficiency in good learning, such soundness in the faith, and of such virtuous and pure manners, and godly conversation, that he is apt and meet to exercise the office of a Bishop, to the honour of God, and to the edifying of his church, and to be a wholesome example to the flock of Christ.

William White, Bishop of the Diocese, and Rector of Christ Church, St. Peter's, and St. James's, Philadelphia.
Robert Blackwell.
Joseph Hutchins.

James Abercrombie, Senior Assistant Minister of Christ Church, St. Peter's, and St. James's, Philadelphia.

Frederick Beasley, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

Bird Wilson, Professor of Systematic Divinity in the General Theological Seminary.

Joseph Clarkson, Co-Rector of St. James's Church, Lancaster.

Jackson Kemper, an Assistant Minister of Christ Church, &c. Philadelphia.

J. C. Clay, Rector of St. John's Church, Norristown, and St. James's Church, Perkiomen.

George Sheets, Rector of Trinity Church, Oxford, and All Saints' Church, Lower Dublin.

George Weller, Minister of St. Mark's, Mantua, and St. Mary's, Hamiltonville.

J. G. Cooper.

James Montgomery, Rector of St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia.

Charles Smith, Rector of Christ Church, Meadville.

Joseph Spencer, Rector of St. John's Church, Carlisle.

John Rodney, Jr. Rector of St. Luke's Church, Germantown, and St. Thomas' Church, White Marsh.

William H. De Lancey, an Assistant Minister of Christ Church, St. Peter's, and St. James's, Philadelphia.

Samuel Bowman, Associate Rector of Christ's Church, Lancaster County, and St. John's, Chester.

Moses P. Bennet, Minister of St. Peter's Church, Butler, Butler County, and Kittanning, Armstrong County.

Levi S. Ives, Co-Rector of St. James's Church, Lancaster.

John H. Hopkins, Rector of Trinity Church, Pittsburgh.

William C. Mead, Rector of Trinity Church, Southwark, Philadelphia.

S. Sitgreaves.

Henry J. Whitehouse, Minister of Christ Church, Reading.

David C. Page, Rector of Christ Church, Greensburgh.

Benjamin Hutchins, Missionary of the Society for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania, in the northwest section.

George Tryon,
Thomas H. White,
Phil. H. Nicklin, } Christ Church, Philadelphia.

William Meredith,
Horace Binney,
William Phillips, } St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia.

Thomas Hale,
Gustavus Colhoun,
John C. Lowber, } St. James's Church, Philadelphia.

William J. Bell,
Samuel Hazlehurst,
N. Chapman, } St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia.

Edward Wallington,
George P. Story,
Jesper Harding, } Trinity Church, Southwark, Phila.

J. R. Ingersoll,
Richard Peters, Jr.
Wm. Adams, } St. Mark's Church, Mantua.

Lewis Evans,
James Ross, } St. Stephen's Church, Thompsontown.

Levi Pawling,
Philip S. Markley,
John Freedly, } St. John's Church, Norristown.

David W. Huling, St. Mark's Church, Lewistown.

Isaac Porter,
Thomas Parke,
Augustin Meacham, } St. Jude's Church, Springville.

F. A. Wise,
George Singer,
D. C. Morris, } Christ Church, Greensburgh.

Ebenezer Bowman, St. Stephen's, Wilkesbarre.

Richard Baynton,
John Coulter,
Windham H. Stokes, } St. Luke's, Germantown.

Thomas Enoch,
Charles H. Israel,
Charles L. Volz, } Trinity Church, Pittsburgh.

James Hopkins,
George H. Whitaker,
Alexander Varian, } St. James's Church, Lancaster.

James Peacock, St. Stephen's Church, Harrisburgh.

Gaius Moss,
John Badger, } St. Mark's, New Milford.

Samuel Cox,
Joseph Ashton,
Benjamin Johnson, } All Saints', Lower Dublin.

John Donaldson,
David Acuff,
John G. Watmough, } St. Thomas's, Whitemarsh.

Redmond Conyngham,
Edward J. Stiles,
Benjamin Stiles, } St. John's Church, Carlisle, Pa.

William Overington,
Lynford Lardner, } Trinity Church, Oxford.

C. F. Keener,
John L. Fuller,
M. C. Clarkson, } Christ Church, Huntington Township, Adams County.

Matthew Henderson,
Clement A. Buckley,
Thos G. Henderson, } St. John's Church, Pequea.

Marks John Biddle,
Frederick Kellogg,
Nath. P. Hobart, } Christ Church, Reading.

John Shannon,
William Casselberry,
Edward Evans, } St. James's Church, Perkiomen.

Jared Shattuck,
Henry Baldwin, jr.
John B. Wallace, } Christ Church, Meadville.

Edward Veazey,
John Yeates,
N. F. Lightner, } Christ Church, Leacock.

Samuel A. Gilmore, St. Peter's Church, Butler.

Charles M. Reed, St. Paul's Church, Erie.
F. Nixon Van Dyke, St. John's Church, Mercer.
B. B. Vincent, St. Peter's Church, Waterford, Erie County.
Henry Beckett, St. Mary's Church, Hamiltonville, Philadelphia County.
Thomas Reed, St. John's Church, Huntingdon County."

A true copy,

Attest, WILLIAM H. DE LANCEY,
Secretary of the Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

The Rev. Jackson Kemper, as Secretary of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, read the Testimonials from the Standing Committees, in favour of the Bishop elect, as follow:—

Diocese of Maine, June 26th, 1827.

We, whose names are underwritten, fully sensible how important it is that the sacred office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality or affection, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify, that the Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk is not, so far as we are informed, justly liable to evil report, either for error in religion, or for viciousness of life; and that we do not know, or believe, there is any impediment, on account of which he ought not to be consecrated to that holy office; but that he hath, as we believe, led his life for three years last past, piously, soberly and honestly.

P. S. TEN BROECK,
R. H. GARDINER,
SIMON GREENLEAF,
Standing Committee of the Diocese of Maine.

A Testimonial in the same words, dated

Diocese of New Hampshire, Portsmouth, June 22, 1827.

Signed by NATHANIEL ADAMS,
JAMES SHEAFE,
CHARLES BURROUGHS, Rector
of St. John's Church, Portsmouth.

The majority of the Standing Committee for the State of New Hampshire.

A Testimonial in the same words, dated

Diocese of Massachusetts.

Signed by JOHN S. I. GARDINER,
THEODORE EDSON,
SAMUEL D. PARKER,
THOMAS CLARK,
J. C. WARREN,
Standing Committee of the State of Massachusetts.

A Testimonial in the same words, dated

Diocese of Vermont, Bethel, June 27th, 1827.

Signed by ABRAHAM BRONSON,
BENJAMIN B. SMITH,
JOEL CLAP,
SAMUEL B. SHAW,
SYLVESTER NASH.

A Testimonial in the same words, dated

Diocese of New York.

Signed by WM. HARRIS, President of the
Standing Committee.
WILLIAM CREIGHTON, Sec'y.
WILLIAM BERRIAN,
HENRY ROGERS,
NICHOLAS FISH,
T. L. OGDEN,
EDWARD LYDE.

A Testimonial in the same words, dated

Diocese of New Jersey.

Signed by JOHN CROES, Jr.
J. CHAPMAN,
JOHN M. WARD,
} *Clergy.*

JOSEPH MARSH,
EWD. CARROLL,
JAMES PARKER,
ROBT. BOGGS,
} *Laity.*

A Testimonial in the same words, dated

Diocese of Delaware.

Signed by S. W. PRESTMAN, President of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Delaware.
KENSEY JOHNS,
JAMES BOOTH, Jr.
Members of the Standing Committee.

A Testimonial in the same words, dated

Chestertown, Maryland, June 13, 1827.

Signed by J. P. K. HENSHAW,
JOHN JOHNS,
W. E. WYATT,
S. C. STRATTON,
THOMAS BAYNE.

A minority of this committee, viz. the Rev. J. P. K. Henshaw, and the Rev. J. Johns, have desired their names to be withdrawn from the Testimonial: the majority being present, and not concurring. On the subject of the right of an individual to withdraw his name, the Bishops present do not find themselves called on to decide, as it can have no effect on the result.

A Testimonial in the same words, dated

Diocese of Virginia, June 25, 1827.

Signed by RUEIL KEITH,
E. R. LIPPITT,
WM. JACKSON,
BUSH. WASHINGTON,
JOHN HORN.

A majority of this committee, viz. the Rev. Reuil Keith, the Rev. E. R. Lippitt, the Rev. William Jackson, and John Horn, Esq. have desired their names to be withdrawn from the Testimonial. On the question whether the majority have a right to this, the Bishops present do not find themselves called on to decide, as it can have no effect on the result.

A Testimonial in the same words, dated

Diocese of South Carolina, June 11, 1827.

CLERICAL.

Signed by CHRISTOPHER E. GADSEN,
President of the Standing Committee.
ALLSTON GIBBES, Secretary of the Standing Committee.
PAUL T. GERVAIS,
FREDK. DALCHO,
CH. HANCKEL.

LAY.

SAML. WRAGG,
DAVID ALEXANDER,
THOMAS LOWNDES,
KEATG. SIMONS,
Standing Committee.

A Testimonial in the same words, dated

Diocese of Georgia, June 28th, 1827.

Signed by HUGH SMITH, President of the Standing Committee, Diocese of Georgia.
LOT JONES,
ABIEL CARTER,
J. BOND READ,
THOS. J. WRAYS,
E. A. CAMPBELL, Secretary of the Standing Committee of the Prot. Epis. Church, Diocese of Georgia.

☞ "Although of the seventeen Committees who had transmitted their Testimonials, six individuals have desired their names to be withdrawn, their doing so is rested on the *tenth Reason only*," of the Remonstrance against the Consecration of the Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk.

After the above testimonials, the Rev. Mr. Kemper read the following "Consent of the Bishops to the consecration of the Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk."

CONSENT OF THE BISHOPS.

The Bishops now present have already under their hands, given their consent to the consecration of the Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk, D. D.; and they further manifest their consent by their attendance on this occasion; and by their intention to assist in the ensuing solemnity.

Bishop Griswold, in a letter dated September 11th, 1827, writes as follows:—"I hereby give my consent, that Mr. H. U. Onderdonk should be ordained assistant Bishop for Pennsylvania; and pray, that in faith and zeal, and in prudence and charity, he may be such as the state of the church there requires."

Bishop Moore, in a letter dated September 11th, 1827,

writes as follows:—"I have never been hostile to the promotion of Dr. Onderdonk; and I hereby declare my consent to his consecration, and my sincere wish that he may prove a blessing to your diocese, and a comfort to yourself."

Bishop Brownell after referring to the election of Dr. Onderdonk, and to the requisition of the sixth Canon of 1820, writes as follows:—"Pursuant to the provisions of the same canon, I now give my cordial consent to his consecration; and I earnestly pray that the great head of the church may make him an instrument in promoting the peace, and advancing the prosperity of the diocese of Pennsylvania."

Bishop Ravenscroft, in a letter dated September 3, 1827, writes as follows:—"Though a stranger to Dr. Onderdonk, beyond the formality of an introduction when last in your city, I feel gratified in his election, and shall most heartily concur in, though distance will preclude my being present at, his consecration.

Then the person presented for consecration, pronounced the following promise of conformity to the doctrine, discipline, and worship, of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

"In the name of God, Amen. I, Henry Ustick Onderdonk, chosen assistant Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the state of Pennsylvania, do promise conformity and obedience to the doctrines, discipline, and worship, of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. So help me God, through Jesus Christ.

The Presiding Bishop, then, after moving the congregation present to pray, proceeded to the Litany, and after that to the address and questions to the Bishop elect, who, after this, put on the rest of the episcopal habit.

And after the imposition of hands, and the delivery of the bible, the Presiding Bishop delivered the following

ADDRESS.

It would be a trespass on the patience of the audience, after the length of the service, and after the eloquent and impressive discourse which has been delivered from the pulpit, and there remaining the administration of the holy communion, were the time to be protracted to any considerable extent, by what is now to be delivered. But, there may be expected the patience of a few minutes, while vent is given to the feelings which possess me on this occasion.

There shall be a beginning with the expression of gratitude to the diocese, for having provided an assistant to me in the duties of the episcopacy, and to be my successor, in the event of my decease; and in doing this, it is essentially incumbent on me, to notice the liberality of those members of our church, who, by a signal sacrifice of private interest, have provided a fund for his support, with the view of his being devoted entirely to the duties to which he has been on this day consecrated.

A year has passed, since, at a Convention held for the purpose, the subject was brought under consideration. On that occasion, I thought myself entitled, by my official character, to submit to the assembled body, certain qualifications, considered by me, as pre-eminently to be kept in view, in the election then contemplated. They were, in the first place, a conscience and affections seasoned by piety; sincere, so far as can be known by former life and conversation; and, at the same time, unincumbered by any of the extravagances, which are sometimes an injury to a religious profession, and not seldom a substitute for it. Another was, the being furnished with a sufficiency of useful learning, called for by the respect-

ability of our church generally, by that of our diocese in particular, and by its being essential to the prospect of any considerable usefulness. The only remaining qualification specified, although many more might have been profitably introduced, was an enlightened attachment to the doctrines, the worship, and the constitution of our church, grounded on the principles, which we believe to have been transmitted to us from the churches founded by the blessed apostles, through the channel of the church of England. These points are dilated in greater extent, on the Journal of the Special Convention; and reference is now made to that former occasion, and to the sentiments then delivered, for the purpose of expressing the opinion, that the wishes entertained, have been accomplished in the transaction of this day; and that the qualifications commended, are combined in the respectable person, on whom the choice of the diocese has fallen.

With this retrospect to former counsels, it will not be out of place to look forward to the future, with the hope, that under the influence of the divine blessing, the result of the present solemnity will be such, as to correspond with our expectations. To address a charge to this effect to the newly consecrated Bishop, would be to repeat the sense of what has been addressed to him by the church, in the appointed service, in which there is nothing wanting, for the filling of his mind with a view of the importance of the work before him, and to excite his energies for the entering on it with zeal, and with industry, proportioned to the undertaking. It is, indeed, of great magnitude; since, although his predecessor, in his endeavours to raise the church from the prostrate state in which she was found in the beginning of his episcopacy, has not been without a considerable measure of success; yet it is but a beginning of what an able labourer, wholly devoted to the object, may be expected to accomplish.

It will not be unsuitable to the occasion, with the tender of thanks to the Right Reverend Brethren who have given their attendance and their assistance, to bespeak their countenance and their counsels, or rather to foretell that nothing of this sort will be wanting, to the sustaining of the right reverend person, who, from this day, will be their colleague, and their fellow-labourer in the government of the church, and in extending the kingdom of the Redeemer: and, we may trust, that the same is to be expected of all our brethren in the episcopacy.

It is agreeable to remark the presence of so many reverend persons of the other orders of the clergy, some of whom have left distant cures to give their sanction on this occasion. It may reasonably be expected, that they, and the clergy generally, will honour the newly consecrated Bishop in his office, and of the clergy of this diocese in particular, that there will not be wanting their aid, to give effect to his labours. There are some present, who, having long acted with the present Bishop in ecclesiastical concerns, will not be backward to testify, that he has been always jealous of opinions, which ground the episcopacy on such principles, as would render the government of our church not that of laws, but of human will. There ought not to be entertained a doubt, that the like views of the subject, will be those of his assistant and successor; and so long as he shall walk in this line of conduct—a measure of righteous rule, being essential to society in all its forms—any invasion of his just rights, will have a tendency to the placing of power in the hands of persons, whose "little finger" of unauthorized authority, will be heavier than "the loins" of an authority, made legal by the constitution and the canons of the church.

In regard to the audience generally, there may reasonably be solicited their prayers, that the blessing of God may be plentifully poured out on the work which has been performed

in their presence. They are but a few of the diocesan flock, with whom an official intercourse is to be begun. The newly consecrated person is almost a stranger in our city; and entirely so beyond it, over the extensive surface of the state. If, in consequence of the solemn pledges given by him within the hearing of this assembly, of devotion to the spiritual interests of themselves and of all under his superintendence, there have been impressed a measure of confidence in the future performance of his engagements; and if, in consequence of personal acquaintance to be begun and continued with any, the impression should be strengthened, it will have so auspicious a bearing on the commencement of his work, as we may expect to produce a favourable influence on the progress of it.

As for the deliverer of this address, he does not consider himself as abandoning the duties of the Episcopacy, which he believes to be bound on him, so long as it shall please God to continue to him his health, a moderate portion of his yet remaining strength, and the possession of his faculties. To this determination, he finds additional motive in the danger at all times existing, of possible injury to the church, by any threatened deterioration of her institutions. Against every thing of this sort, it is his design, under divine permission, to bear his testimony; and, so far as may be in his power, to put forth his best endeavours, to the latest period of his life; perhaps with the advantage of strengthening the hands of his successor; and certainly with the requisite in regard to himself, of being found "faithful unto death."

He feels the full weight of an occasion, reminding him of his near approach to the end of the ministry, in which he has been so long a labourer: and when, during the transaction in which we have been engaged, he occasionally permitted his eye to rest on the spot, within the distance of a few feet,*

* His paternal pew, now his own.

where, in the days of his boyhood, he joined in religious services within these walls; when, from that spot, his attention was transferred to the pulpit at his elbow; from which, although not unfavoured by domestic instruction and encouragement, there sunk into his youthful mind the truths of the ever blessed gospel; and from which, for the space of fifty-five years, he has been proclaiming the same truths; with what effect will not be known, until the day which shall "try every man's work of what sort it is;" but certainly with effect far short of his wishes and of his prayers; there results from these recollections and from others, a most weighty sense of the responsibility on which he has been so long acting; and of his need of the mercy of God through the merits of the Redeemer, for many failures and imperfections; and for a falling short of his labours, however sincere in their principle, of what might have been accomplished by a more diligent improvement of the opportunities, with which a beneficent Providence had furnished him.

Under the impression of this sentiment, he casts himself on the Christian charity of all present, for their intercessions at the throne of grace, that at the period which cannot be distant, in humble resemblance of the apostle of the Gentiles, he may "finish his course with joy, and the ministry which he has received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."

There remains of the duties of the occasion, the celebration of the great sacrifice for sin, which was prefigured in animal sacrifice from the time of the expulsion from Paradise; and will be commemorated to the end of time, in the spiritual sacrifice which is to follow.

The Presiding Bishop then proceeded to the Communion Service, with whom the new consecrated Bishop, with others, also communicated, and the whole was concluded with the blessing by the Presiding Bishop.

SENTENCE OF CONSECRATION.

Know all men by these presents, that we, William White, D. D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, Presiding Bishop; John Henry Hobart, D. D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New York; James Kemp, D. D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Maryland; John Croes, D. D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New Jersey; and Nathaniel Bowen, D. D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of South Carolina, under the protection of Almighty God, in Christ Church, in the city of Philadelphia, on Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, did then, and there, rightly and canonically, consecrate our beloved in Christ, Henry Ustick Onderdonk, D. D., rector of St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn, New York, of whose sufficiency in good learning, soundness in the faith, and purity of manners, we were fully ascertained, into the office of Bishop, to which he hath been elected by the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, to assist the Bishop of the Church in the said State, in the duties of the episcopal office, and to succeed him in case of survivership.

Given in the city of Philadelphia, this twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven.

WILLIAM WHITE, (L.S.)
JOHN HENRY HOBART, (L.S.)
JAMES KEMP, (L.S.)
JOHN CROES, (L.S.)
NATHANIEL BOWEN. (L.S.)